

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education



Wednesday, 1 September 2021

NEW MONASH HUBS TO BOOST COVID VACCINE MANUFACTURING

A new purpose-built facility at Monash University will increase Victoria's medicine manufacturing capability, including COVID-19 vaccines, thanks to a funding boost from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Higher Education Gayle Tierney today announced the \$21.65 million trio of projects at the Clayton campus, including the \$13.8 million expansion of the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC), which will produce Australia's first mRNA vaccine for clinical trials.

MMIC has already played a vital role in developing tools to combat COVID-19, including a therapy inhaled through the nose. The new facilities include more office space and laboratories to strengthen collaboration between scientists and medicine manufacturers – further cementing Victoria as a leader in medicine manufacturing.

The funding will also help create the \$4.63 million oNKO-innate hub which will drive innovation in the development of cancer therapies, and the creation and commercialisation of treatments.

The project will also support the \$3.21 million UP-LINK University Partner Collaboration Space which will be a home for start-ups to digitally streamline smart manufacturing. It is the first component of the larger Monash Smart Manufacturing Hub project that will help drive increased research commercialisation and entrepreneurship.

The project will create opportunities for about 1,000 students, and more than 350 jobs direct research positions and secondary jobs as well as 100 jobs in construction. Construction is due to be completed next year.

The Government contributed \$16.1 million to the project in a joint effort by Monash University and its partners, and was one of many pitches from universities to the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund, which was developed in response to the significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the sector.

The unprecedented \$350 million Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund is supporting universities with capital works, research infrastructure projects and applied research focused on boosting Victoria's productivity and economy as the state recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

Quote attributable to Minister for Higher Education Gayle Tierney

"This is a huge scientific development putting Monash and local Victorian experts at the forefront of the global fight against COVID-19 – and we're so proud to be supporting this groundbreaking research."

Quote attributable to Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford

"We're serious about developing our mRNA manufacturing capacity and doing it quickly, because it will save lives. This support for an Australian-first clinical trial is another major step in a really important journey."

Quote attributable to Monash University Vice-Chancellor Margaret Gardner

"Monash University is pleased to receive funding through the VHESIF to drive commercial and entrepreneurial activity across the Monash Technology Precinct."